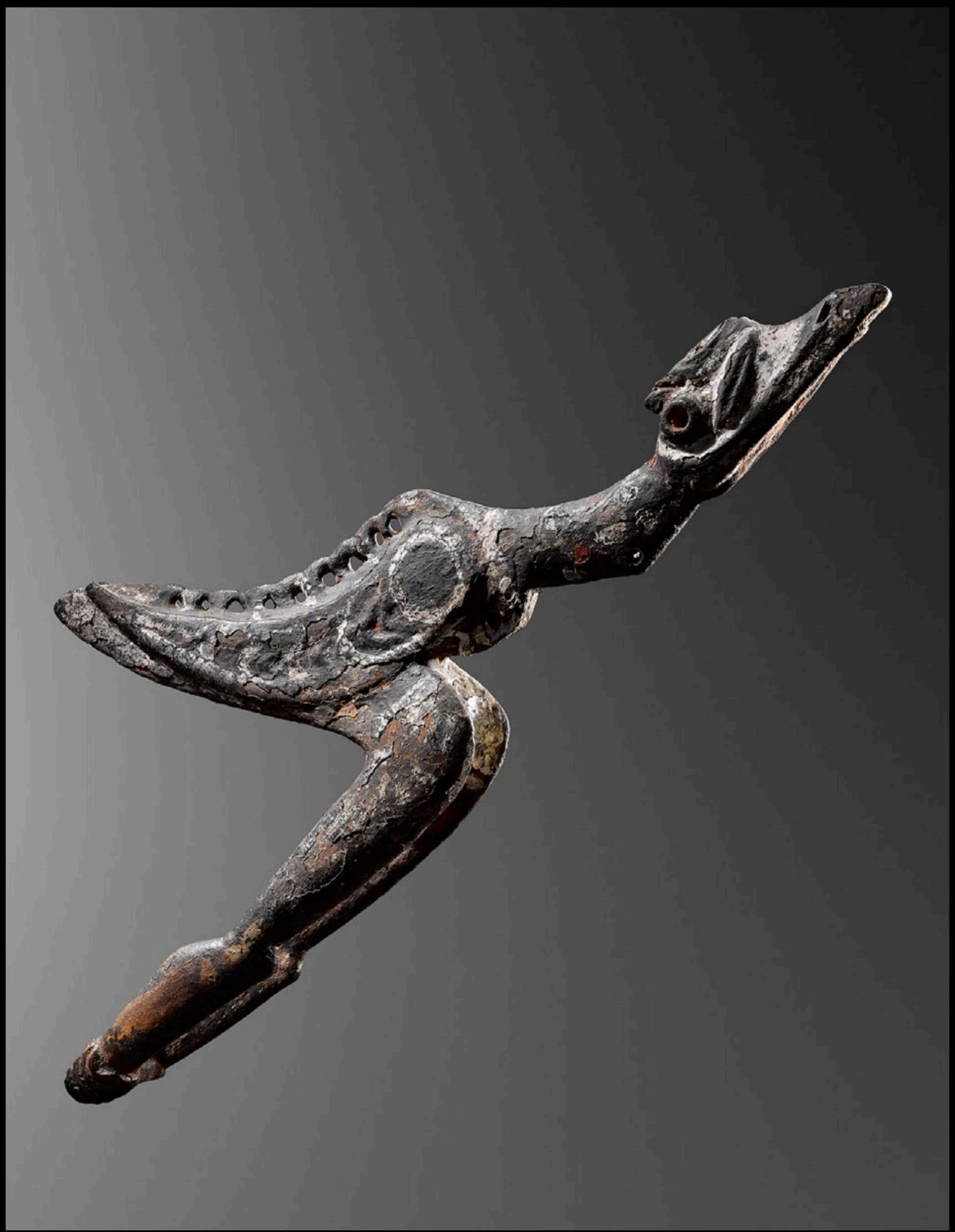
TRIBAL ART SOCIETY

Thursday
September 1st
2022



ONLINE CATALOGUE LXXVI

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

WHO WE ARE

The Tribal Art Society features an online catalogue every month listing quality works of Asian art that have been thoroughly vetted by our select members, who are the in-house experts.

By bringing together a group of trusted dealers specializing in Tribal art, our platform offers a unique collection of works of art that collectors will not find anywhere else online. To ensure the highest standards, gallery membership is by invitation only and determined by a selection committee.

/TribalArtSociety

Cover Image: detail of a Songye Figure. Presented by Guilhem Montagut on p. 28

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TAS SELECTION 14

PARTNERS

This month, we are partnering with two fairs in which some TAS members are taking part. Some of the pieces presented in this catalog will also be exhibited there.
We look forward to seeing you in Paris for the Parcours des Mondes and in London for the Tribal Art London!

Ce mois-ci, nous nous associons à deux événements auxquels des members de TAS participent. Certaines des pièces présentées dans ce catalogue y seront égalment exposées.
Nous vous donnons rendez-vous à Paris pour le Parcours des Mondes et à Londres pour le Tribal Art London !

6 – 11 September 2022

INTERNATIONAL FAIR

PARCOURS DES MONDES 2022

TRIBAL ART

ASIAN ART

ARCHAEOLOGY

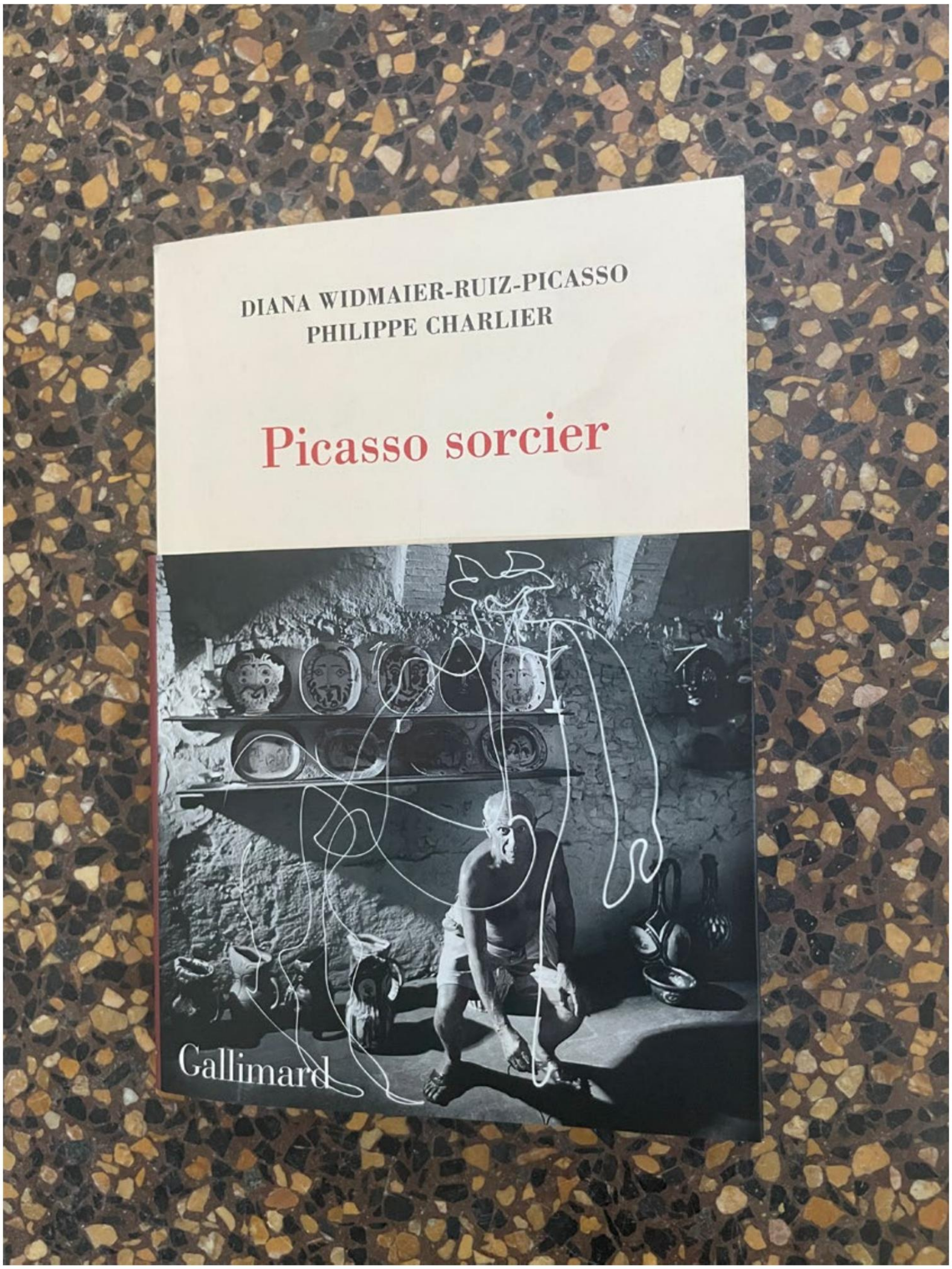
Saint-Germain-des-Prés

QUARTIER DES BEAUX-ARTS

PARIS

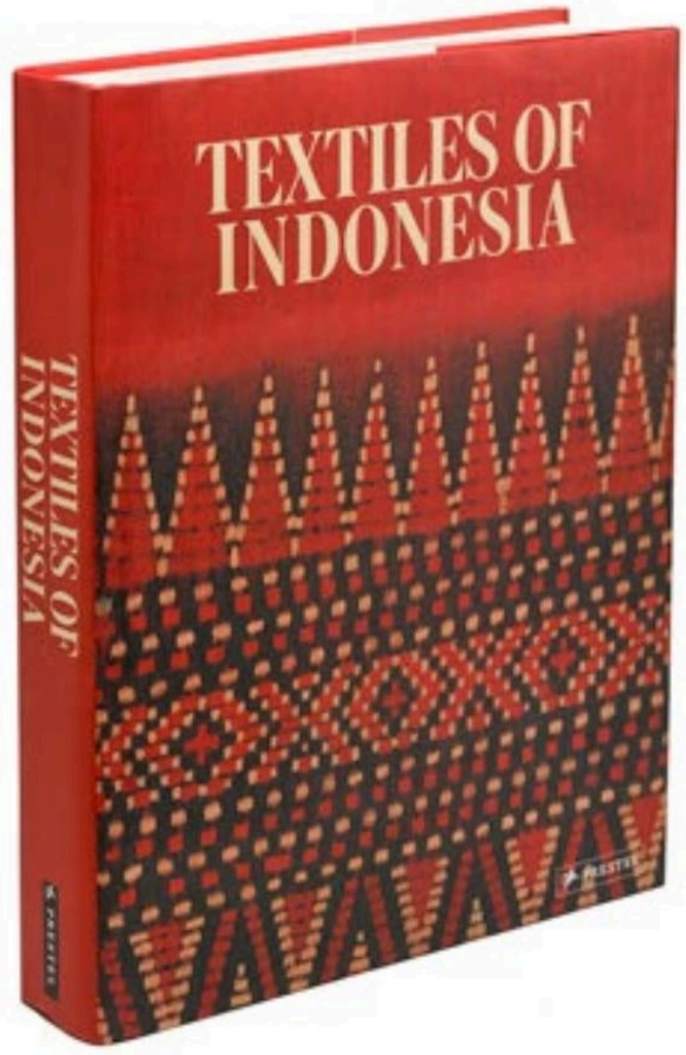
PARCOURS-DES-MONDES.COM

BOOK SIGNING



in the presence of
Philippe Charlier (Musee du Quai Branly Jacques Chirac)
and Diana Widmaier-Ruiz-Picasso
at Galerie Flak, Thursday 8th September 5-7 pm

THOMAS MURRAY



"Altogether this publication offers a magnificent summary of one of Indonesia's most impressive artistic accomplishments."
-Ruth Barnes

"A feat that will mark a milestone in the field for years to come."
-Roy Hamilton

Join me for a book signing of my latest publication

TEXTILES OF INDONESIA

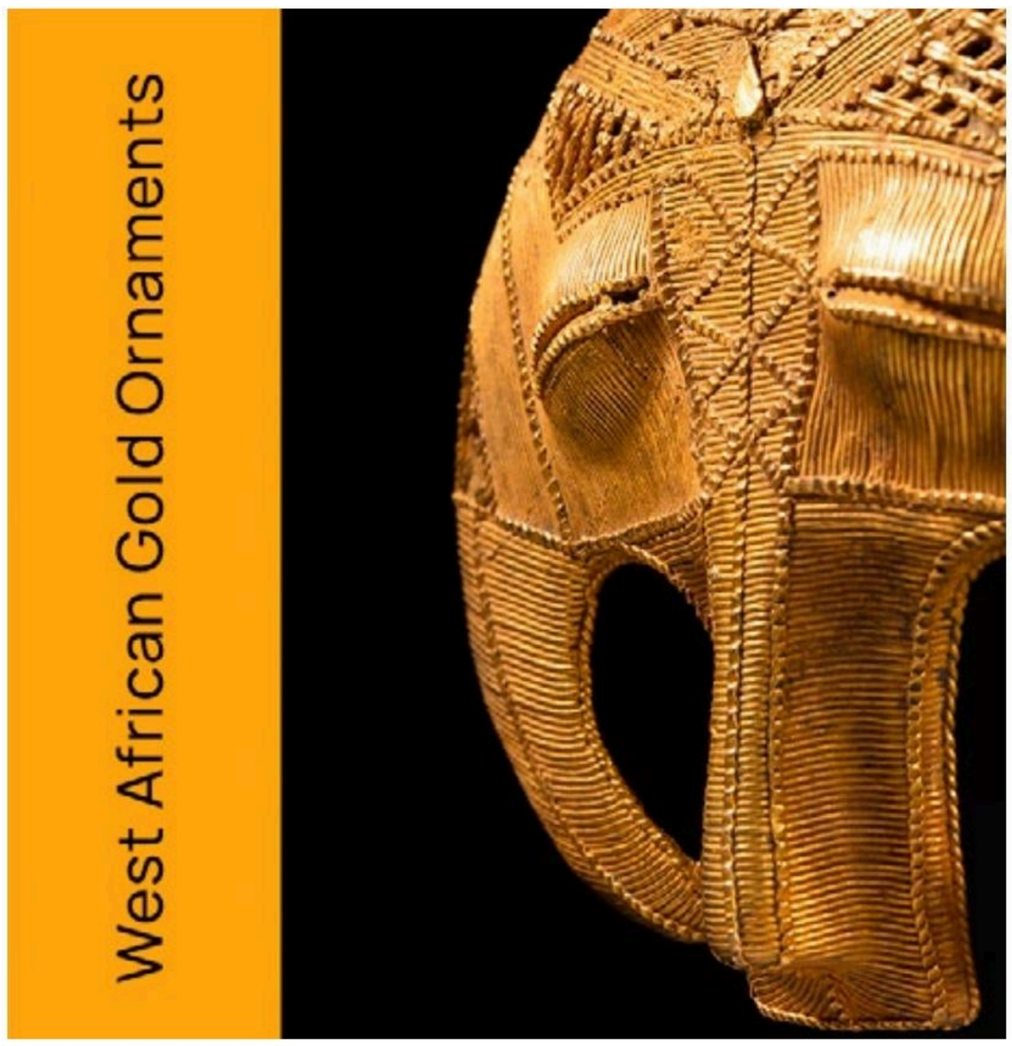
September 7th - 5pm

Parcours Espace Info
8 bis rue Jacques Callot, Paris

PARCOURS DES **MONDES** INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRIBAL ART ASIAN ART ARCHAEOLOGY

www.tmurrayarts.com

EXHIBITIONS



We are glad to announce our next two exhibitions that we will present during Parcours des Mondes 2022, next September.

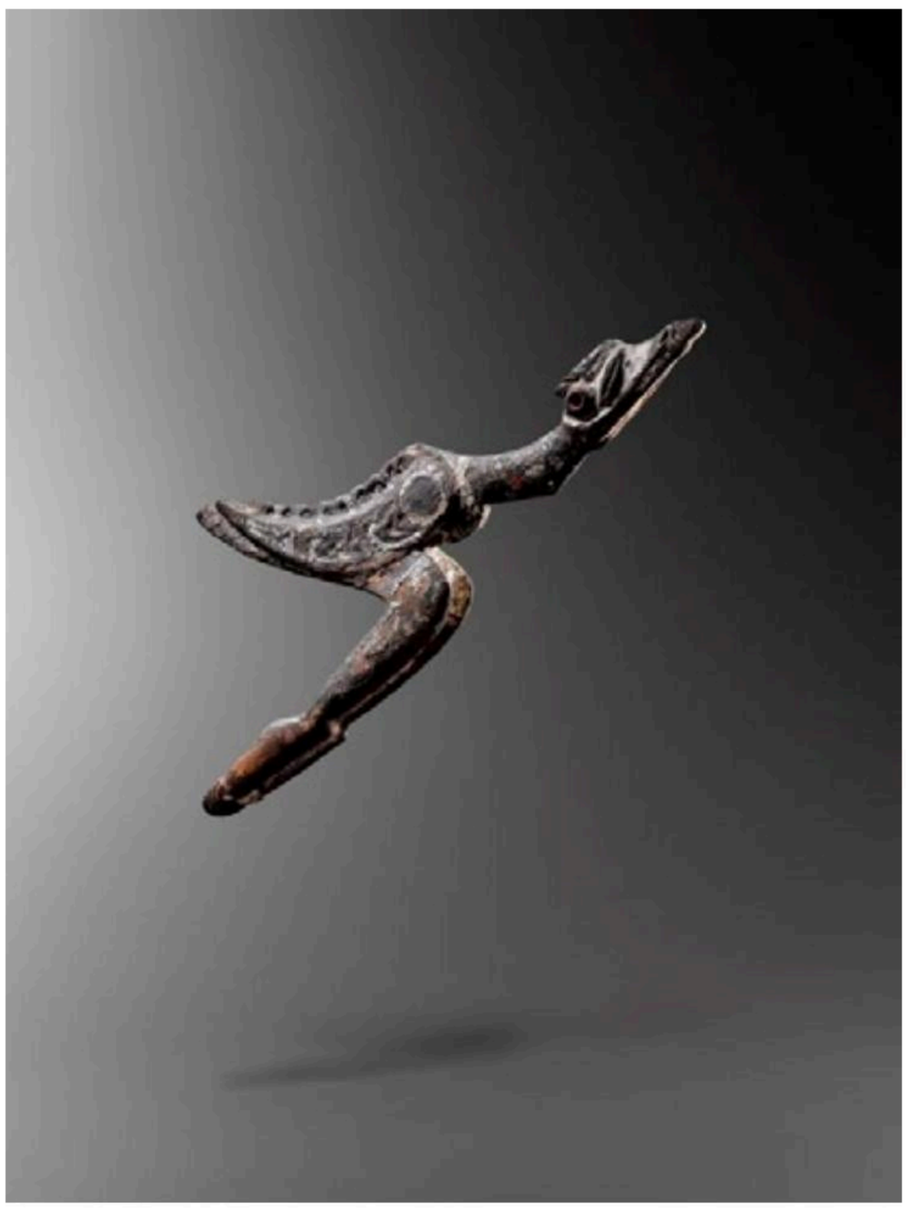
As every year we will show our new acquisitions in the Imaginaire Tribal 2022 catalogue. And we will also present a new book: West African Gold Ornaments, where we gather a set of texts and ornaments representative of the Akan culture and its relationship with gold. The realization of this project must also be thanked for the collaboration of Patrick Girard, Wilfried Glar and many others who do not fit in this small text.

We will welcome you to our new location at
8, Rue des Beaux-Arts, Paris
from September 6 to 11, 2022.
Sincerely,
The David Serra-Fine Tribal Art Gallery Team

@galeriemeyeroceanicart
CASSE
TÊTE
GALERIE MEYER
PARIS
OCEANIC ART
6 SEPT
28 OCT
2022
17 RUE DES
BEAUX-ARTS
PARIS 75006

V O Y A G E U R S & C U R I E U X
ART D'OCÉANIE - OCEANIC ART

TWO EXHIBITIONS FOR PARCOURS DES MONDES 21ST EDITION FROM 6 TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2022



NOUVELLES ACQUISITIONS
2, rue Visconti

DU LAC SENTANI AU VILLAGE D'AITAPE
20, rue Mazarine

2 rue Visconti -20 rue Mazarine, 75006 Paris

Tel. + 33 1 43 26 14 58 - mob. + 33 6 74 53 78 79
contact@voyageursetcurieux.com
www.voyageursetcurieux.com
Instagram : voyageursetcurieux2

SEPTEMBER ARTWORKS

Pieces are published and changed each month. The objects are presented with a full description and corresponding dealer's contact information. Unlike auction sites or other platforms, we empower collectors to interact directly with the member dealers for enquiries and purchases by clicking on the e-mail adress.

In order to guarantee the quality of pieces available in the catalogues, objects are systematically validated by all our select mebers, who are the in-house experts. Collectors are therefore encouraged to decide and buy with complete confidence. In addition to this, the Tribal Art Society proposes a seven-day full money back return policy should the buyer not feel totally satisfied with a purchase.

Feel free to ask the price if the artwork is listed with a price on request.

01

ATAYAL COSTUME

Headhunter costume
Atayal
Taiwan
19th/very early 20th century
Ramie, raveled trade wool, shell disk beads
48 cm x 96,5 cm
Provenance:
Valerie Hector collection
Price on Request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Thomas Murray
M.: + 1 415.378.0716
E.: thomas@tmurrayarts.com
W.: www.tmurrayarts.com

Robes of this type are the most important of all Taiwan Aboriginal costumes and were exclusively worn by successful headhunters of the Atayal people. Exceptionally rare, they were profoundly labor intensive to create. The red color represents the Blood of Life, the linear geometry of the beading, the Rainbow Path of the Ancestors. The hand pierced shell beads represent thousands of hours of stored value.

In the recent publication, Textiles of Indonesia, Valerie Hector informs us that shells have been used in Southeast Asia as both ornament and currency for Millenia. Oliva shell beads were found in an archaeology site of Timor dating to circa 35,000 years ago and Nassarius shell beads were found in the same area dating to 4500 BCE.
Despite the emergence of the glass trade bead industry some two thousand years ago, hand fashioned shell disks continued to serve as a primary way of storing value and signaling prestige up through the 20th century for many ethnic groups of Southeast Asia and Oceania. This was owing to the extraordinary labor intensiveness in shell bead creation, and the principle that the further from the sea, the greater the value for all artifacts made from shell.

This small exhibition features shell artwork from some of the most legendary headhunting peoples of Asia, including the greatest shell-decorated garment in the world from the Atayal of Taiwan; a blouse decorated with mother of pearl shell beads from the B'laan of Mindanao, Philippines; an early warrior's cape from the Naga with appliqued cowrie shells, making a human figure amid circles; and an extraordinary Naga necklace fashioned from giant clam, both from the northeastern highlands of India.

It is a pleasure to share this deeply meaningful group with you!

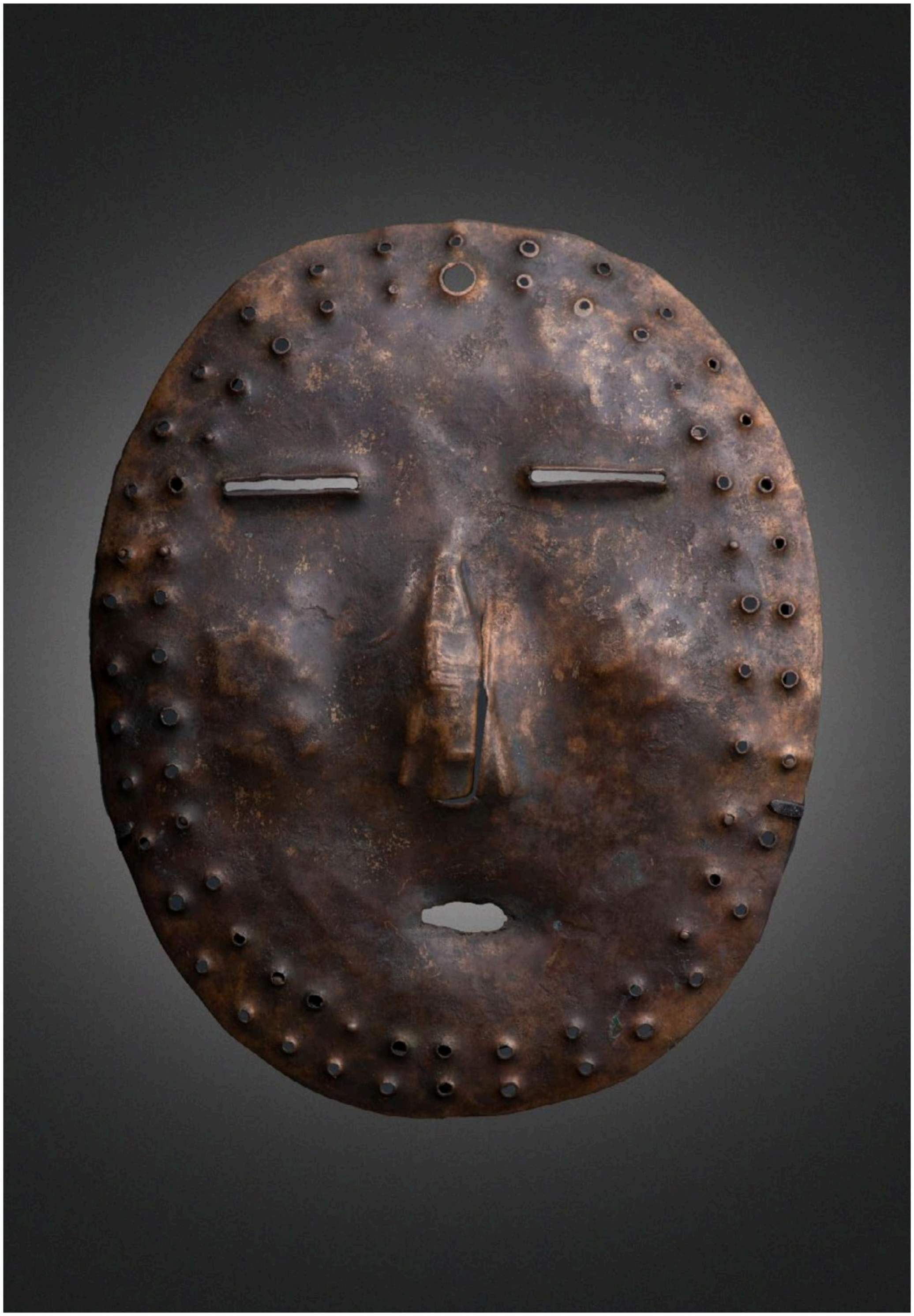
02

EVENK MASQUETTES

Masquettes
Evenk
Eastern Siberia
19th century
Cast-bronze
Left mask: 9,25 cm x 7,5 cm
Right mask: 10 cm x 8 cm
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Joe Loux
T.: +1 505 695 6626
E.: joe@joeloux.com
W.: www.joeloux.com

These masks were revered by the Evenk people of Siberia as they were considered the spirit of a shaman's ancestors. They would be placed in an honored location within their dwellings. They were used rarely during seances.



TAL
TRIBAL ART LONDON

03

IFA DIVINATION BOWL

Yoruba
Nigeria
Late 19th or early 20th century
Height: 18 cm
Price: 850 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
T.: + 44 7725 689 801
E.: adam@adamprout.com

PARCOURS DES MONDES

04

KAYAMBA MASK

Mask
Lega
D.R. of the Congo
Early 20th century, Interbellum period
Wood
Height: 24 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Belgium
Nick Foley-Oales collection, United Kingdom
Price: 2.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
David Serra
T.: +34 (0) 667525597
E.: galeria@davidserra.es
W.: www.davidserra.es

PARCOURS DES MONDES

05

SEPIK MASK

Mask
Bogia Area, Lower Sepik, P.N.G.
Late 19th century
Carved wood and pigments
Height: 49 cm
Provenance:
Field-collected in the 1940s
Stanley Gordon Moriarty collection, Sydney
Pierre Mondoloni collection, France
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Julien Flak
M.: +33 6 84 52 81 36
E.: contact@galerieflak.com
W.: www.galerieflak.com

Masks from the region of the mouths of the Sepik and the Lower Ramu were carved to incarnate mythological beings tied to ancestral, water or bush spirits.

These masks were carefully kept in the Men's House, protected from the eyes of the uninitiated (children, women). They made their appearance for ceremonies specifically organized to invoke the spirits and insure their aid.

The exceedingly rare mask presented here comes from Bogia, a region east of the mouth of the Ramu River and accessible only with difficulty.

Bogia masks are distinguished by their flowing lines and jutting angles. The fine-aged pigments and the way the mask was carved indicate great age.

In the limited corpus of Bogia masks, we know of two similar masks, one in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (inv. 1975.305) and the other ib the Bowers Museum in California (inv. 2016.1.1).

This Bogia mask from Papua New Guinea will be part of our selection of ancient arts of Oceania at Parcours des Mondes, 6-11 September 2022.

TAL
TRIBAL ART LONDON

06

TULUMA FISHING TACKLE BOX

Unusual fishing tackle box
Tuluma
Tokelau
19th century
15 cm x 15 cm x 11 cm
Price: 2.200 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
T.: + 44 7725 689 801
E.: adam@adamprout.com
W.: www.adamprout.com

07

WHIMSY YAM MASKS

Abelam
Sepik region, PNG, Melanesia
Early to mid 20th century
Woven cane and pigments with a thick patination of soot.
Larger: 18 cmx 16 cm; Smaller: 15,5 cm x 14 cm
Provenance:
Jacques Lebrat
Galerie Meyer
Private Dutch collection
Price: 4.200 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Anthony J.P. Meyer
T.: +33 (0) 6 80 10 80 22
E.: ajpmeyer@gmail.com
W.: www.meyeroceanic.art

Two wonderfully whimsy yam masks each composed of two woven circles sewn together to one side with a cane loop forming a stylized nose.

08

SEPIK NECKREST

Neckrest
Sepik River, Murik Lakes, P.N.G.
Early 20th century
Wood with red patina, bamboo and fiber
Length: 37 cm
Provenance:
German private collection
Inv. 05455
Price: 5.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Laurent Dodier
M.: + 33 6 08 22 68 15
E.: laurentdodier@wanadoo.fr
w.: www.laurentdodier.com

The upper part is carved with human heads and small animal heads at both ends.

The curved bamboo legs are held together by fiber straps; the neck rest is made of wood.

PARCOURS DES MONDES

09

SENTANI HOOK

Lake Sentani, Irian Jaya, New Guinea, Melanesia
Wood
Height: 46 cm
Provenance:
Collected in 1959 by an American couple producing a documentary in New Guinea
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

Jean-Edouard Carlier
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E.: contact@voyageursetcurieux.com
w.: www.voyageursetcurieux.com

TAL
TRIBAL ART LONDON

10

ZULU STAFF

Staff
Zulu
South Africa
Circa 1900 or earlier
Length: 102 cm
Price: 850 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
T.: + 44 7725 689 801
E.: adam@adamprout.com
W.: www.adamprout.com

PARCOURS DES MONDES

11

LOBI STOOL

Stool
Lobi
Burkina Faso
Early 20th century
Wood
Length: 59,5 cm
Provenance:
Jean-Paul Delcourt, France.
Giovanni Franco Scanzi, Italy.
Publications:
Scanzi, Giovani F. *L'Art Traditionnel Lobi*. Italia: Ed. Milanos, 1993, p.339, no284.
Sur la Piste de l'Éléphant...et celle d'Abou Ballas. Claude-Henri Pirat. Primedia éditions, Belgique 2021.
Price: 7.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
David Serra
T.: +34 (0) 667525597
E.: galeria@davidserra.es
W.: www.davidserra.es

12

BAULE FLY HUNTER

Fly hunter
Baule
Ivory coast
20th century
Wood and leather.
Height: 62 cm, (Head height: 15 cm)
Provenance:
French private collection
Price: 950 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Laurent Dodier
M.: + 33 6 08 22 68 15
E.: laurentdodier@wanadoo.fr
w.: www.laurentdodier.com

Fly Hunter. The handle represents, above a twisted neck, a human head with a bun hairstyle with three shells.

13

MUMUYE FIGURE

Lagalagana ritual figure
Mumuye
Nigeria
Early 20th century
Carved wood and pigments
Height: 65 cm
Provenance:
Collected by Michel Huguenin in 1968, Paris
Pierre Parat collection, Paris acquired from above
Artcurial auction, 10 June 2008, lot 188
Joaquin Pecci collection, Brussels
Private collection, Europe

Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Julien Flak
M.: +33 6 84 52 81 36
E.: contact@galerieflak.com
W.: www.galerieflak.com

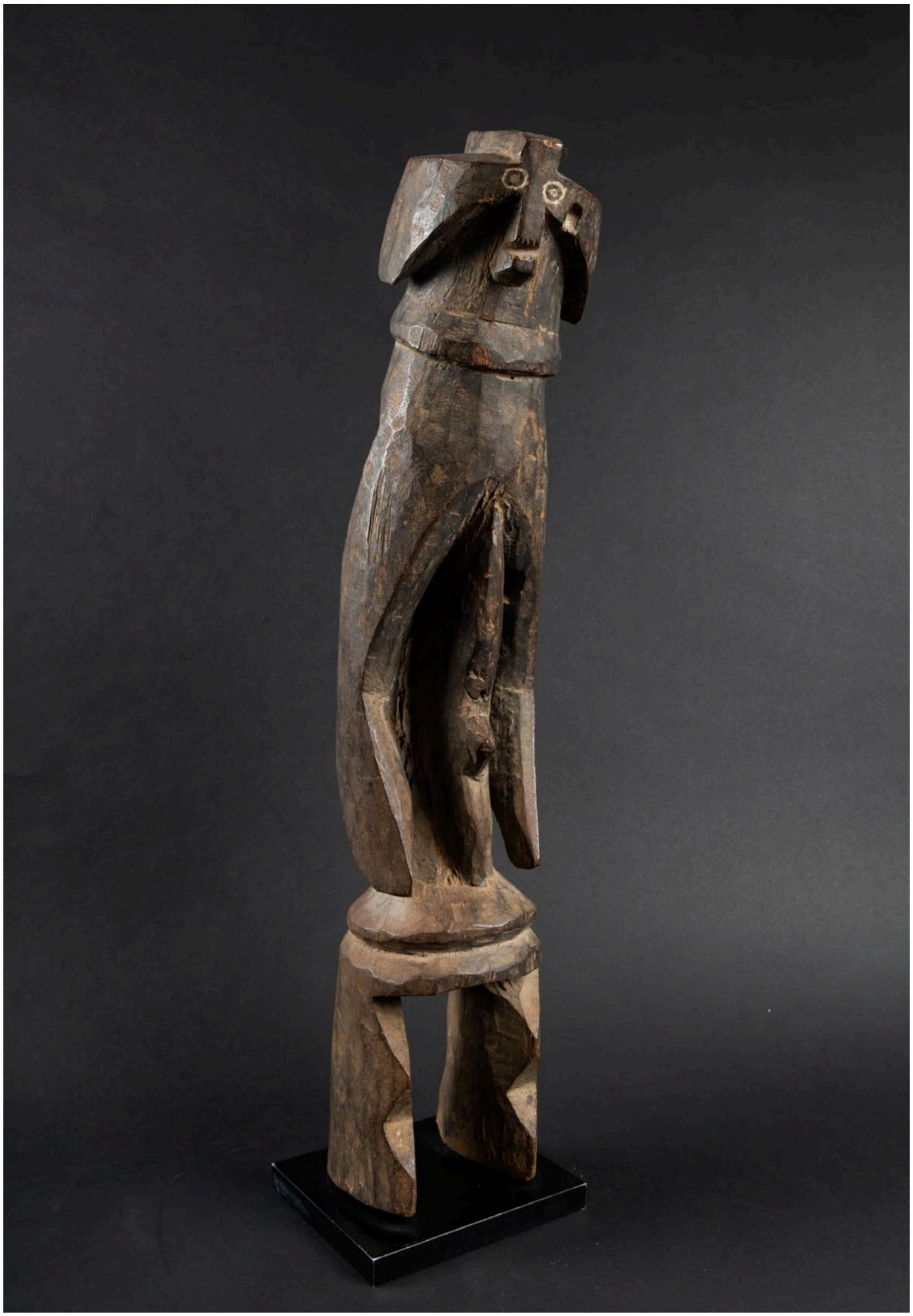
The Mumuye live in the foothills of the Shebshi Mountains near the banks of the Benue in eastern Nigeria. This agrarian people is comprised of three different dialectal groups, and was long unknown to Westerners, who discovered their art only in the late 1960s.

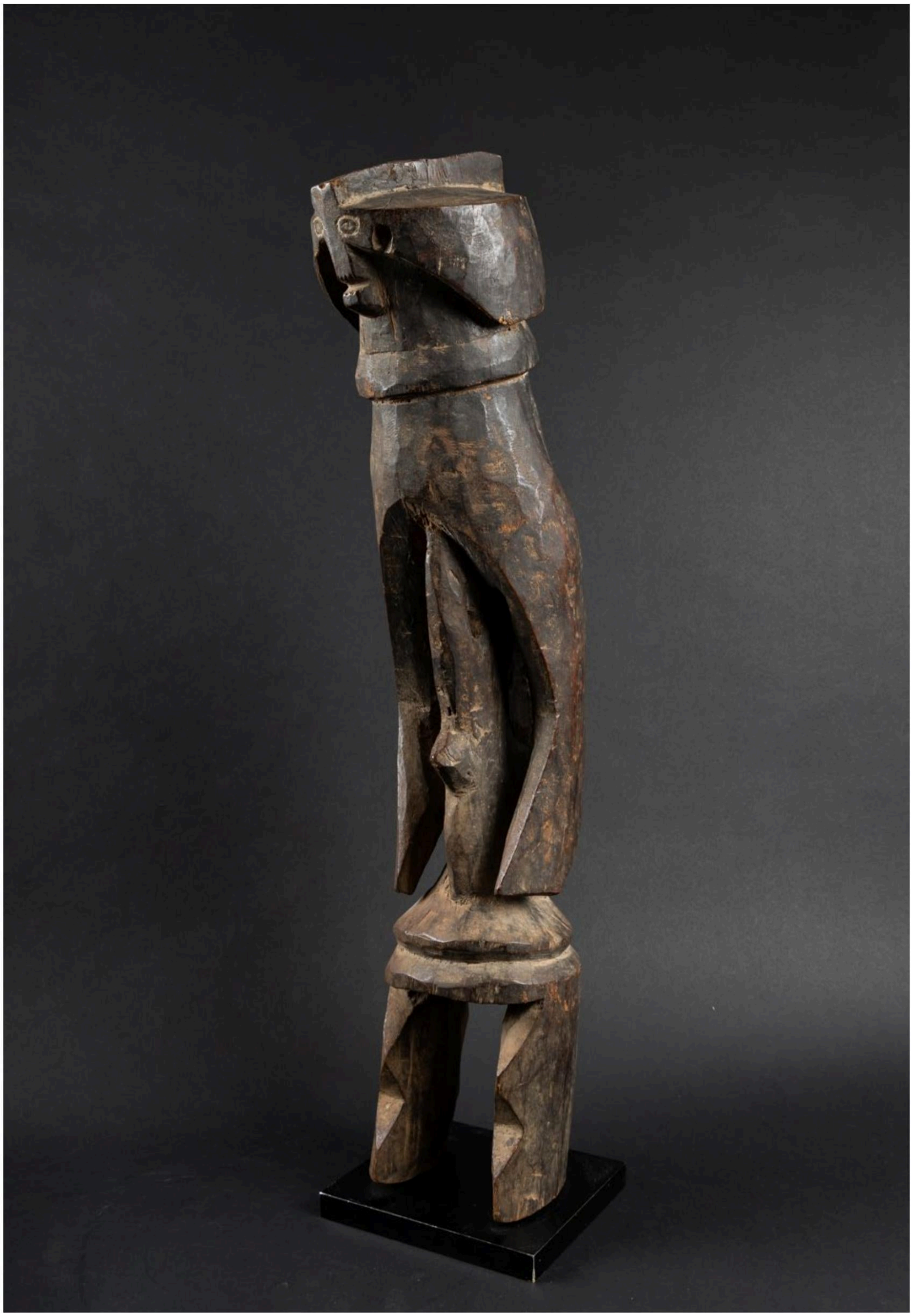
The Mumuye used sculptures called Iagalagana in different rituals: the figures played a central role in ancestor worship and in curing ceremonies. They served as intercessors between the spirit world and that of men, and served as proof of the high status of the family that owned them.

This large figure is characterized by its remarkable dynamism, reinforced by the angular breaks in the rhythm of the piece that are so characteristic of Mumuye art.

The arms echo the movement of the torso and the facial features are intensely expressive. The composition of the figure illustrate how Mumuye statuary constantly reinvents its treatment of the human body. Great dynamism and fascinating juxtaposition of negative and positive space are evidenced in this Mumuye sculpture.

This Mumuye figure from Nigeria will be part of our selection of ancient arts of Africa at Parcours des Mondes, 6-11 September 2022.





14

NAGA NECKLACE

Shell Necklace
Angami naga
India
19th century or earlier
Shells
77 cm
Price: 4.000 USD

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Thomas Murray
M.: + 1 415.378.0716
E.: thomas@tmurrayarts.com
W.: www.tmurrayarts.com

This prestigious heirloom necklace is composed of large beads likely cut from a giant clam. The Angami live high in the mountains and far from the sea. That is why jewelry made from shell is so highly esteemed. A related piece is published in NAGA, awe inspiring beauty, by Michel Draguet, fig 236, p 306.

In the recent publication, Textiles of Indonesia, Valerie Hector informs us that shells have been used in Southeast Asia as both ornament and currency for Millenia. Oliva shell beads were found in an archaeology site of Timor dating to circa 35,000 years ago and Nassarius shell beads were found in the same area dating to 4500 BCE.
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15

MAORI HEAD

A very small and early example with un unusually shaped head.
Maori
New Zealand
18th/19th century
Stone carved
Length: 90 cm
Provenance:
U.K. collection
Price: 2.800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
T.: + 44 7725 689 801
E.: adam@adamprout.com
W.: www.adamprout.com

16

JUKUN STAFF

Staff
Jukun
Nigeria
Late 19th / early 20th century
Wood, beautiful and old grip patina
Height: 37 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Paris
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Olivier Larroque
T.: +33 (0)6 80 08 00 93
E.: o.larroque1@gmail.com
W.: www.olivierlarroque.com

Probably a scepter or the top of a fly swatter.

17

B'LAAN BLOUSE

Beaded Blouse
B'laan
Mindanao, Philippines
Circa 1890-1920
Cotton, handmade shell disks
36 cm x 114 cm
Provenance:
Valerie Hector collection
Price on Request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Thomas Murray
M.: + 1 415.378.0716
E.: thomas@tmurrayarts.com
W.: www.tmurrayarts.com

This remarkable blouse was created using hand-carved shell disks that are both aesthetically pleasing and a storage of value. Thousands of hours of hard labor were required to make so many organic sequins. That the blouse is a tailored garment made from cotton may be said to represent a later Indian influence, probably in the 4th century, about the time Indians introduced cotton.

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18

SEPIK MASK

Small mask representing an ancestor spirit decorated with incised motifs on the forehead and a large curled and pierced nose
Sepik/Ramu deltas, PNG, Melanesia
19th/20th century
Wood with a good patina of age and use
Height: 12 cm
Provenance:
Nelly Van den Abbeele - Important Oceanic Art from the collection of Mrs. Nelly van den Abbeele, Christies, Amsterdam 1999, lot 427 (one of two in lot)
Michael Hamson, USA
Private Dutch collection
Price: 3.450 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Anthony J.P. Meyer
T.: +33 (0) 6 80 10 80 22
E.: ajpmeyer@gmail.com
W.: www.meyeroceanic.art

An unidentified collection number "1289" written in black ink on the reverse.

TAL
TRIBAL ART LONDON

19

KOTA GUARDIAN

Anthropomorphic Reliquary/
guardian figure
Kota
Gabon
Wood and metal Copper alloy (bronze and brass)
Height: 38,1 cm
Inv.3891
Provenance:
Galerie de Monbrison, Paris
Bernard Dulon, Paris
Marc (1932-2002) & Ruth (1935-2000) Franklin collection, San Francisco
Private collection, Acquired from the above Mark Eglinton, NY
Exhibitions:
Emblems of passage. Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, Museum of Craft & Folk Art, San Francisco, 16 January - 7 April, 2002
Publication:
Expo cat.: "Emblems of passage. Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas", Ghent (Gregory), curator, Museum of Craft & Folk Art, San Francisco, 2002:112
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Mark Eglinton
M.: +1 646-675-7150
E.: markeglinton@icloud.com
IG: @markeglintontribalart

20

DAN MASK

Mask
Dan
Ivory Coast
Wood, iron
Height: 24 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Paris
Marceau Rivière collection, France
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Olivier Larroque
T.: +33 (0)6 80 08 00 93
E.: o.larroque1@gmail.com
W.: www.olivierlarroque.com

21

LUBA SCULPTURE

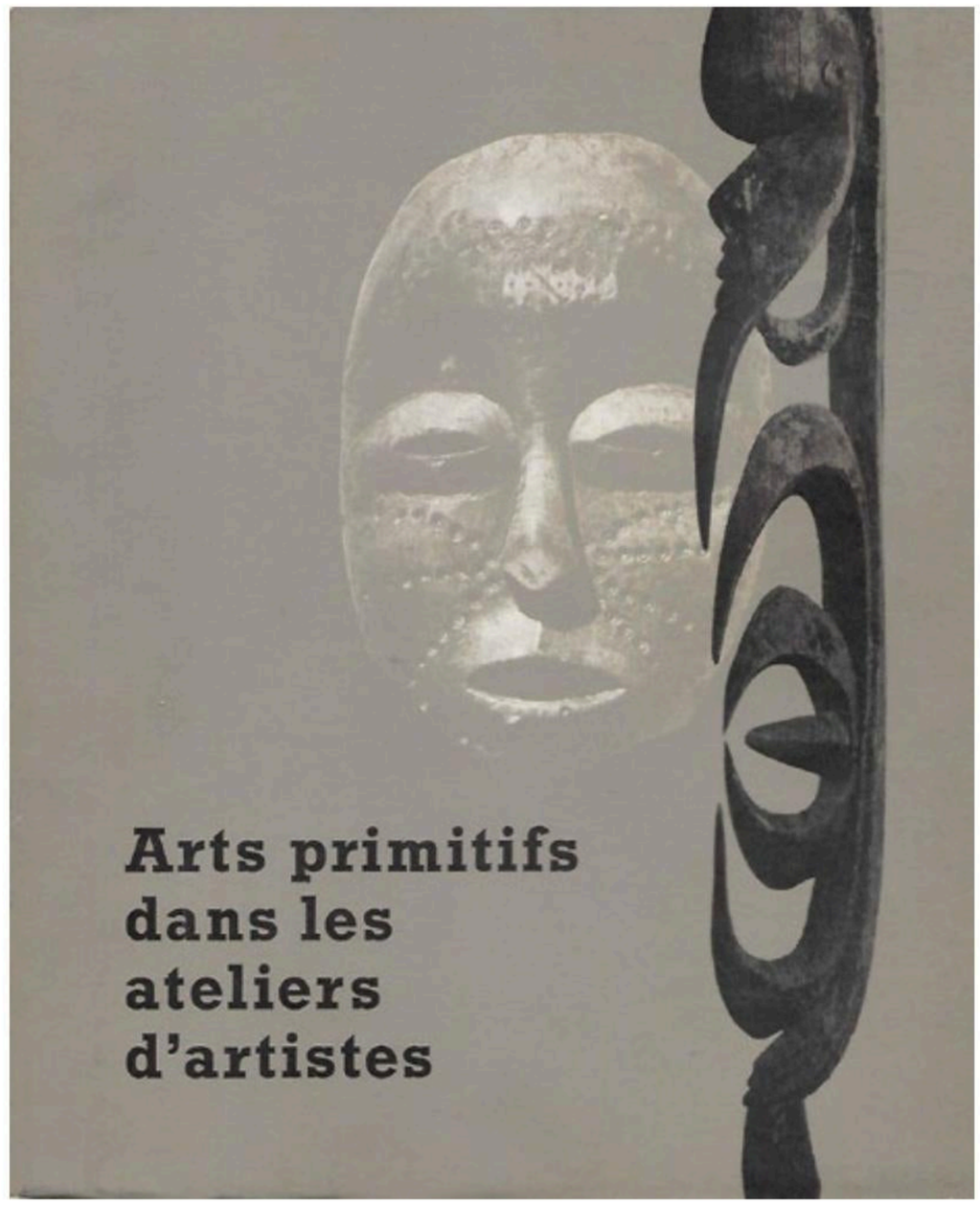
Janus Fetish
Luba
D.R. of the Congo
Height: 18 cm
Provenance:
American collection
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Olivier Castellano
M.: +33 6 11 21 25 22
E.: info@oliviercastellano.com
w.: www.oliviercastellano.com

22

VANUATU MASK

Vanuatu mask
Secret Society Mask
Ambrym Island, Vanuatu
Circa 1900
Wood, coconut fibers, shells, pigments
Height: 29 cm (without fibers)
Provenance:
Eugène Dodeigne, Roubaix
By descent to the family.
Exhibition:
"Arts primitifs dans les ateliers d'artistes", Musée de l'Homme, Paris, Avril-Octobre 1967.
Publication:
"Arts primitifs dans les ateliers d'artistes", Société des Amis du Musée de l'Homme, 1967, N°127.
Price: 12.000 euros



OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Laurent Granier
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W.: www.granierancient.com

01.02.04
DODEIGNE
Masque N. de Helen

23

IRAQW SKIRT

Beaded Skirt
Iraqw
Tanzania
Early 20th century
97 cm (w) x 51 cm (h)
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

Joe Loux
T.: +1 505 695 6626
E.: joe@joeloux.com
W.: www.joeloux.com

The skirt consists of cow-hide with glass beads

This skirt was worn by a young girl during the Marmo initiation ceremony, marking her passage from childhood to womanhood.

PARCOURS DES MONDES

24

MUMUYE SCULPTURE

Sculpture
Mumuye
South región of Benue River, Nigeria
Early 20th century
Wood
Height: 52 cm
Provenance:
Alain Dufour collection, France.
(acquired in late 1960's)
Lucien Van de Velde, Belgium
Private collection, Netherlands
Publications:
Expo cat.: *Tribal Treasures in Dutch Private Collections*, por Siebe Rossel & Arnold Wentholt, editors Netherlands: Vereniging Vrienden Etnografica, 2008:93.
Exhibitions:
Antwerp, Belgium: Art Africain, nouvelles découvertes/Afrikaanse Kunst, nieuwe ontdekkingen", Lucien Van de Velde, 17-18 March 2007
Berg en Dal, Netherlands: "Van Verre Volken Thuis-Kunst in de Kamer", Afrika Museum, 4 Octubre 2008-4 Enero 2009.
Price: 12.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
David Serra
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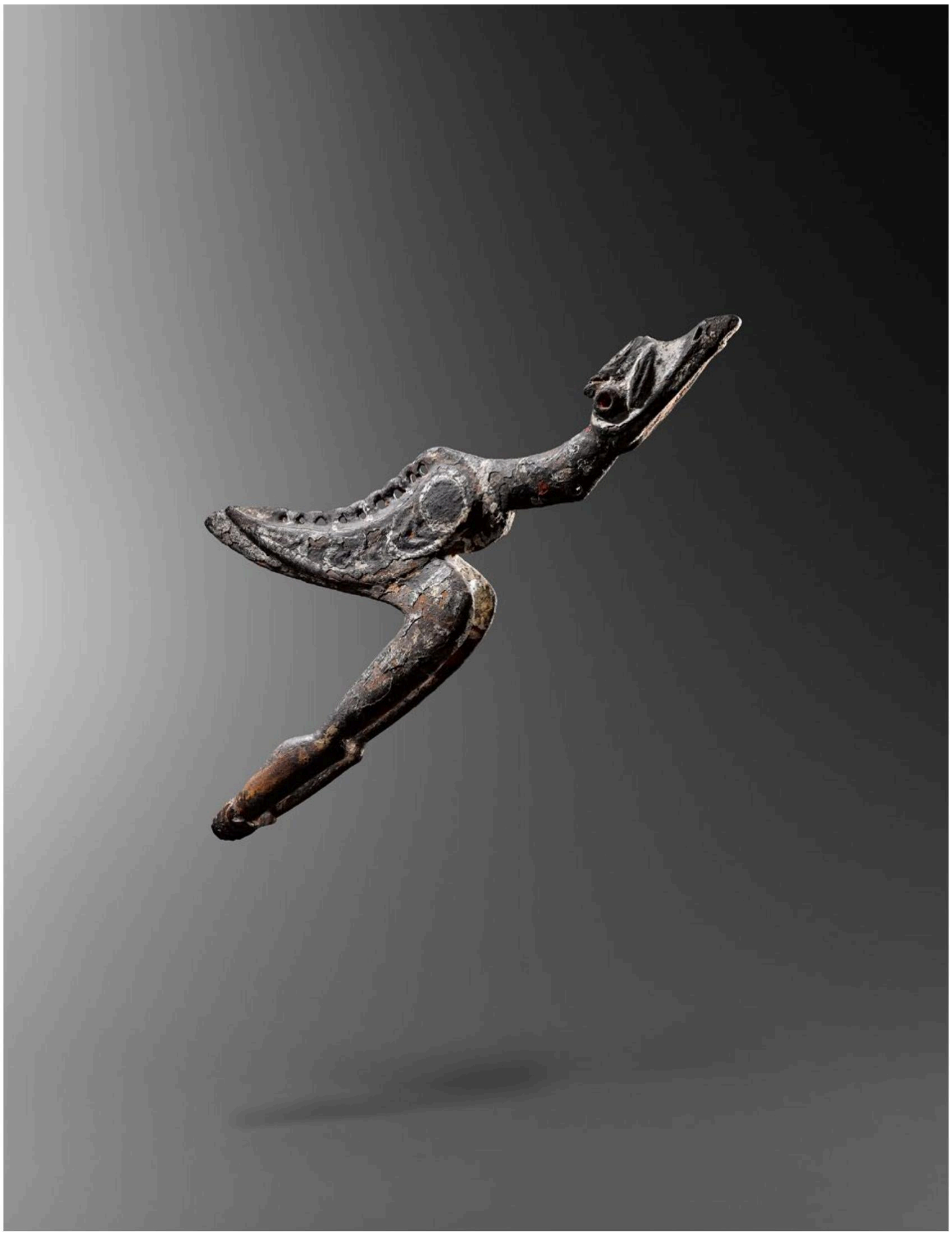
E.: galeria@davidserra.es
W.: www.davidserra.es



25

TOP OF IATMUL SPATULA

Iatmul
Middle Sepik, East Sepik Province, P.N.G., Melanesia
Wood and pigments
Height: 29 cm
Provenance:
Jolika collection of Marcia and John Friede, Rye, U.S.A.
Michael Hamson, U.S.A.
Elizabeth Pryce collection, Sydney
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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26

GURO PULLEY

Pulley
Guro
Ivory Coast
20th century
Wood, old shiny black patina, reddish brown on the corners
Height: 18 cm
Provenance:
French private collection
Price: 2.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Laurent Dodier
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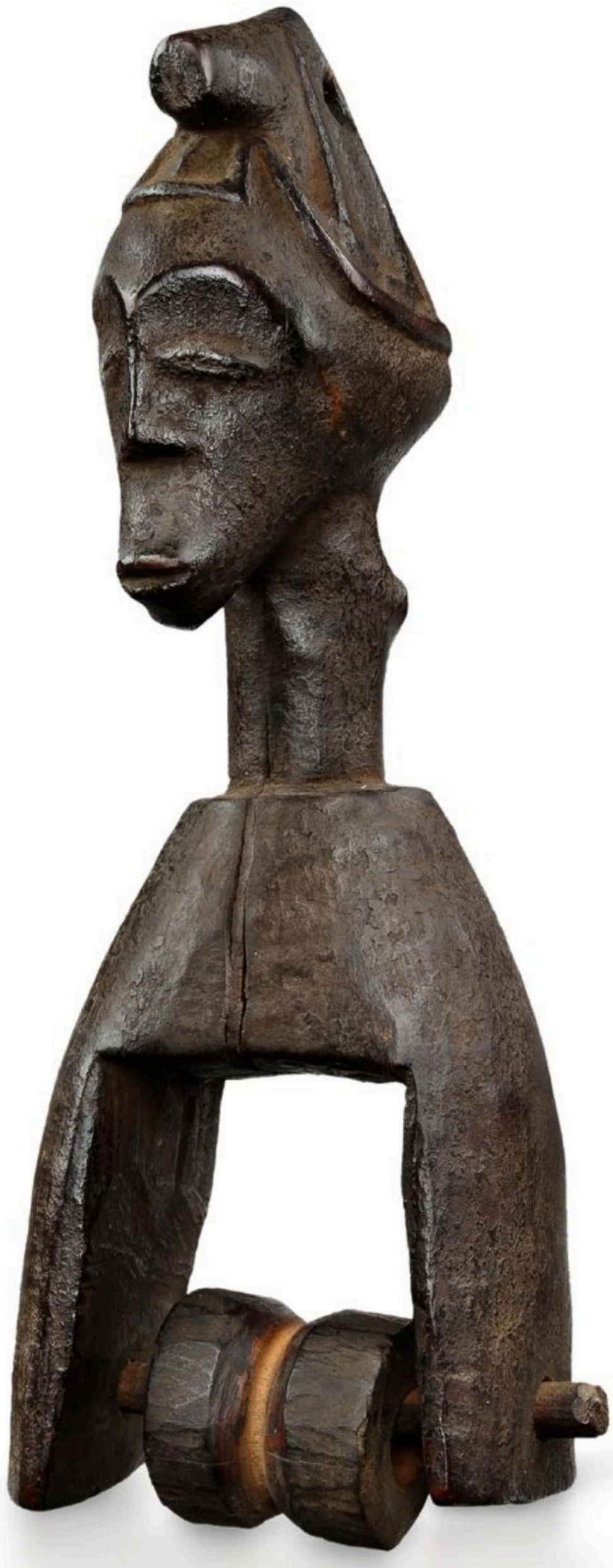
Anthropomorphic loom pulley stirrup. The arch is triangular. Atop a tubular neck, the oval face ends in a stretched chin. Thick keloids are found on the back of the neck. The scroll reel is made of corozo nut.

Weaving was a noble task reserved for men, perceived as an act of procreation that transforms the material torn from the earth into a material that covers bodies, from the bilas of infancy to the shroud of funerals, passing through the finery of weddings.



PARCOURS DES MONDES

27

ULA ONU MASK

Mask
Igbo
Nigeria
Height: 42 cm
Provenance:
George Preston, USA
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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28

LIME SPATULA

Bartle Bay, Massim Area, Milne Bay Province, P.N.G., Melanesia
Wood
Height: 24 cm
Price on request

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PARCOURS DES MONDES

29

GAN PENDANT

Pendant
Gan
Inner Niger Delta region, Burkina Faso
Early Voltaic (19th century or before)
Copper Alloy
Height: 8,3 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, France.
Price: 2.800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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PARCOURS DES MONDES

30

CI WARA HEADDRESS

Ci Wara headdress
Bambara
Mali
First half of the 20th century
Carved wood, fibers and cowrie shells
Height: 106 cm, 115 cm with the woven headpiece
Provenance:
Maurice Nicaud collection (1911-2003), Paris
Private collection, France

TAS Exclusive Price: 9.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Julien Flak
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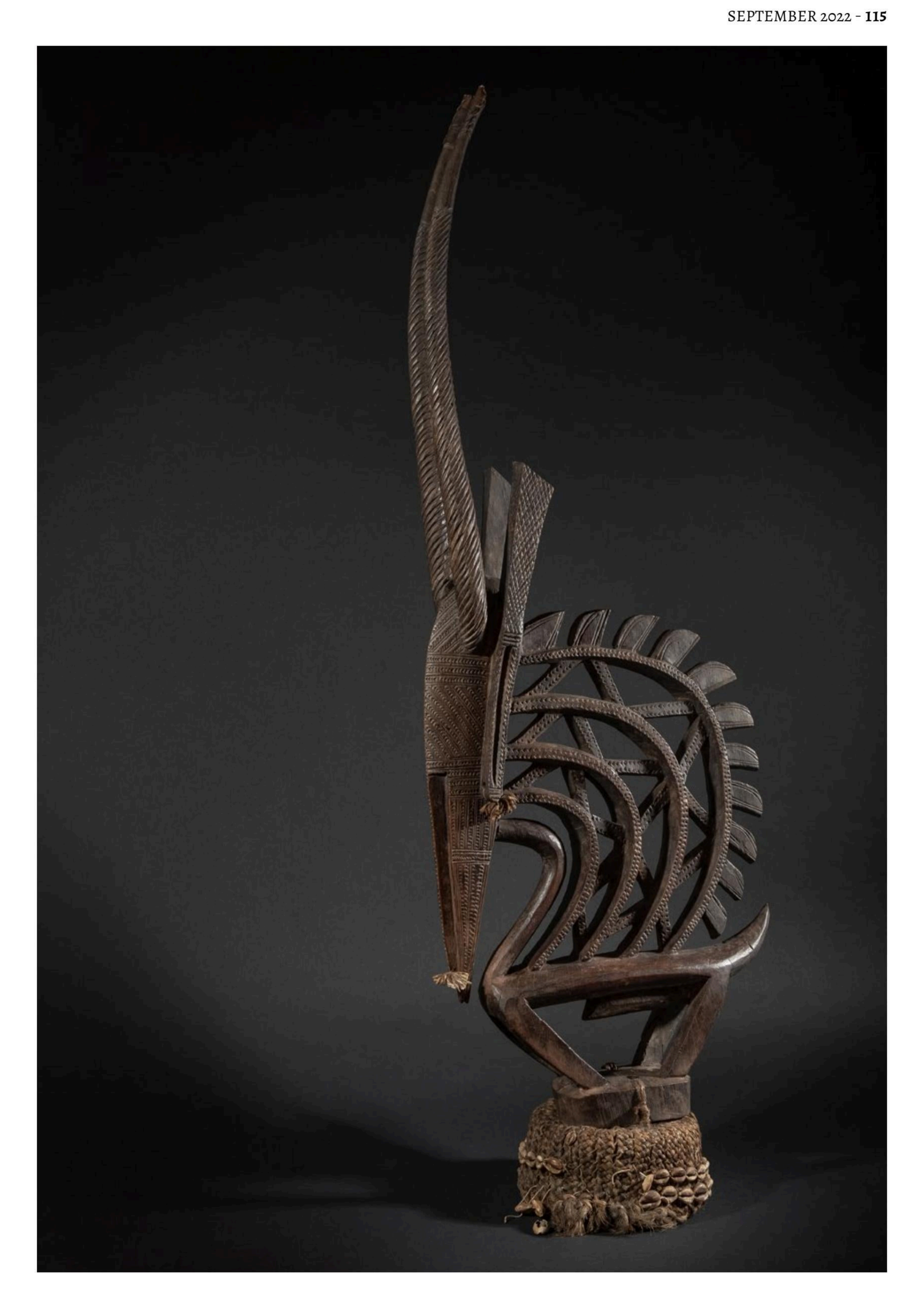
The majority of Bamana (Bambara) people are subsistence farmers.

As noted by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, local oral traditions credit a mythical being named Tyiwara or Ci Wara- a divine being half mortal and half animal - with the introduction of agriculture to the Bamana. These antelope crests, also called Ci Wara, are carved to honor that original mythical being.

Ci Wara masquerade performances begin outside the village in the fields and gradually travel to the village center. Women also play an integral part during the masquerading ceremonies by singing songs of praise for Ci Wara and the hard-working farmers.

This Ci Wara headdress from Bambara people in Mali will be part of our selection of ancient arts of Africa at Parcours des Mondes, 6-11 September 2022



31

ASAFO BANNER

Drapeau asafo, Fante (Ghana)
« Will you fly or will you vanish? »
by Kweku Kakanu
(Saltpound workshop)
Fante, Ghana
Circa 1940
Coton appliqué
Length: 146 cm
Provenance:
Collection privée, France
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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This item will be part of the catalogue
Eloge de l'ombre
Published on the occasion of Parcours des Mondes

32

NAGA CAPE

Headhunter's Cape
Naga
India
19th/very early 20th century
Cotton, dog hair, shells
150 cm x 99 cm
Provenance:
Cathryn Cootner collection
Price: 4.000 USD

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Thomas Murray
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On a finely handspun cotton cloth, cowry shells are stitched down depicting cosmic diagrams of circles and a human figure, awarded only to a successful headhunter. Supplementary weft squares of reddish dog hair decorate the background. Cathryn Cootner was the curator of textiles at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco from 1981, a position she held for 16 years.

In the recent publication, Textiles of Indonesia, Valerie Hector informs us that shells have been used in Southeast Asia as both ornament and currency for Millenia. Oliva shell beads were found in an archaeology site of Timor dating to circa 35,000 years ago and Nassarius shell beads were found in the same area dating to 4500 BCE.
Despite the emergence of the glass trade bead industry some two thousand years ago, hand fashioned shell disks continued to serve as a primary way of storing value and signaling prestige up through the 20th century for many ethnic groups of Southeast Asia and Oceania. This was owing to the extraordinary labor intensiveness in shell bead creation, and the principle that the further from the sea, the greater the value for all artifacts made from shell.

This small exhibition features shell artwork from some of the most legendary headhunting peoples of Asia, including the greatest shell-decorated garment in the world from the Atayal of Taiwan; a blouse decorated with mother of pearl shell beads from the B'laan of Mindanao, Philippines; an early warrior's cape from the Naga with appliqued cowrie shells, making a human figure amid circles; and an extraordinary Naga necklace fashioned from giant clam, both from the northeastern highlands of India.

It is a pleasure to share this deeply meaningful group with you!

33

CHOKWE WHISTLE

Chokwe
Angola
19th century
Provenance:
Collected btw 1908-1923 in Situ
Price on Request

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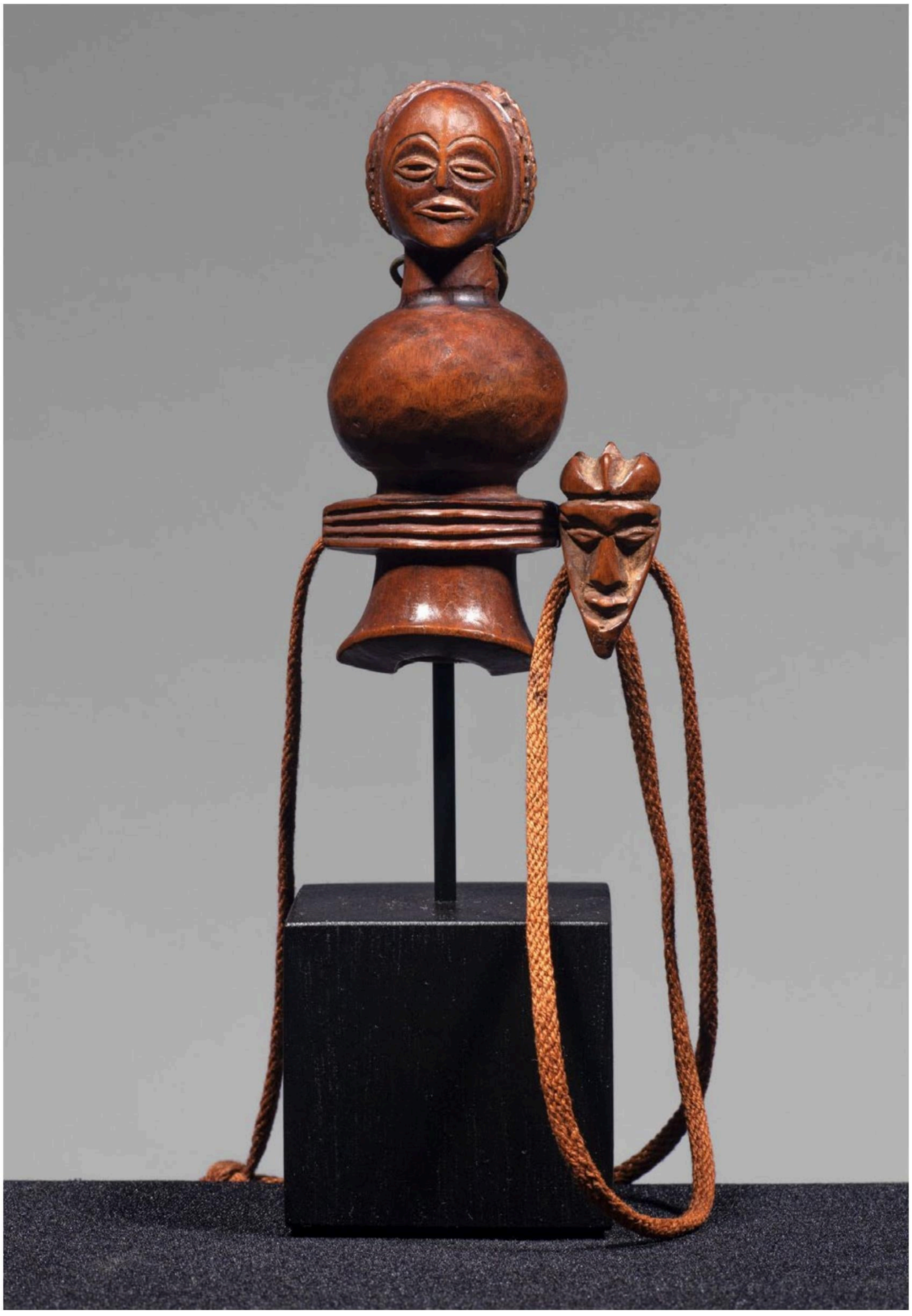

34

A DAGGER FROM IRIAN JAYA

Lake Sentani, Irian Jaya, New Guinea,Melanesia
Bone (Cassowary Tibiotarsus)
Height: 38 cm
Provenance:
Purchased in the 1970s-1980s at the Lemaire Gallery by Klaus Maaz, Germany; then by exchange between collectors at the end of the 2010s
Inscription: “Klaus Maaz Sentanisee”
Price on request

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35

TUPILAK

A very rare and superbly carved Tupilak creature.
Ammassalik Eskimo
Southeast Greenland
Early 20th century
Cedar wood with black pigment (right front leg broken and glued)
24,6 cm
Provenance: Field collected on the Knud Rasmussen sixth and seventh Thule expeditions 1932-33 by geologist Richard Bogvad (1897-1952)
Exhibition: Le Fils de Sanna, Musée du Nouveau Monde, La Rochelle, 18 dec. 2020 au 30 août 2021
Publication: Le Fils de Sanna, Musée du Nouveau Monde, La Rochelle, 2021, p. 87, fig. 1
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Anthony J.P. Meyer
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This remarkable example is carved as a composite seal-like animal with a human leg on the left and a seal flipper on the right. There is a mortised human figure with enlarged eyebrows (or a visor) jutting from the back of the seal. The seal's head is carved with exaggerated features, flaring nostrils, and enlarged globular eyes with projecting black pupils. The neck is striated, and the body is painted with strange black patterns.

« A tupilak spirit could be called upon to help against a foe by a shaman secretly creating a figure made from various bones or other parts of animals. The figure was then inaugurated and became an abode for the spirit by singing a spell over it. The tupilak was often put out to sea so that it could find the enemy itself and kill him. However, this course of action was not without risk because if the tupilak's victim had greater powers of witchcraft than its creator, he could repel its attack and instead send the tupilak back to kill its originator. In Greenlandic the word 'tupilak' means an ancestor's soul or spirit. Apart from the tongue, the tupilak has other recurrent visual features, such as the dilated nostrils, evocative of a predator's sharpened senses or of its aggression; the symmetric lines on the face, partially a decoration, partially pointing back to (forgotten) tattoo traditions, and partially also literally wrinkles, even signs of starvation; the big eyes with a black pupil in the middle, that imitate the so-called "stressed eyes", i.e. when the eye appears gaping, with dilated pupils; the visible ribs or spine – the tupilak as skeleton parts; and then its composite nature, made out of different animals and creatures. »

36

SARAMAKA TRAY

Winnowing Tray
Saramaka people, Suriname
Wood
Diam.: 62 cm
Provenance:
This was purchased by Mort Dimondstein from Jan Visser in the late 1970s.
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

Joe Loux
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This tray is deeper and earlier than most Saramaka winnowing trays. The figures appear to be playing oliphants - this motif is unique for this type of tray.

These figurative elements suggest a connection to African art, specifically the art of the Douala people of Cameroon.
The Douala people were brought to Suriname as slaves. This introduces the question of whether the artist was born in Africa and was exposed to African art.

PARCOURS DES MONDES

37

TLINGIT AMULET

Shamanic amulet
Tlingit
Northwest Coast, British Columbia, Canada
Circa 1840-1860
Antler and abalone shell
Length: 7,6 cm
Provenance: Allen & Sally Wardwell collection, New York
Publication: « Tangible Visions: Northwest Coast Indian Shamanism and its Art », A. Wardwell, Monacelli Press, 1996, fig. 82 p. 105
Price: 7.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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According to the Seattle Art Museum (see "The Box of Daylight, Northwest Coast Indian Art", Bill Holm), the supernatural powers available to Tlingit shamans took the form of spirits of humans and animals. They were notably represented in carved amulets such as the one presented here. These figures were created for a variety of shamanic purposes including protection against illnesses.

This amulet belonged to celebrated author and expert Allen Wardwell, and is published in the reference book “Tangible Visions: Northwest Coast Indian Shamanism and its Art”.

This Tlingit amulet from Northwest Coast will be part of our selection of ancient arts of North America at Parcours des Mondes, 6-11 September 2022.

38

BAULE MASK

Mask
Baule
Ivory Coast
Early 20th century
Wood, red, black and white polychromy
Height: 85 cm
Provenance:
French private collection
Price: 3.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Laurent Dodier
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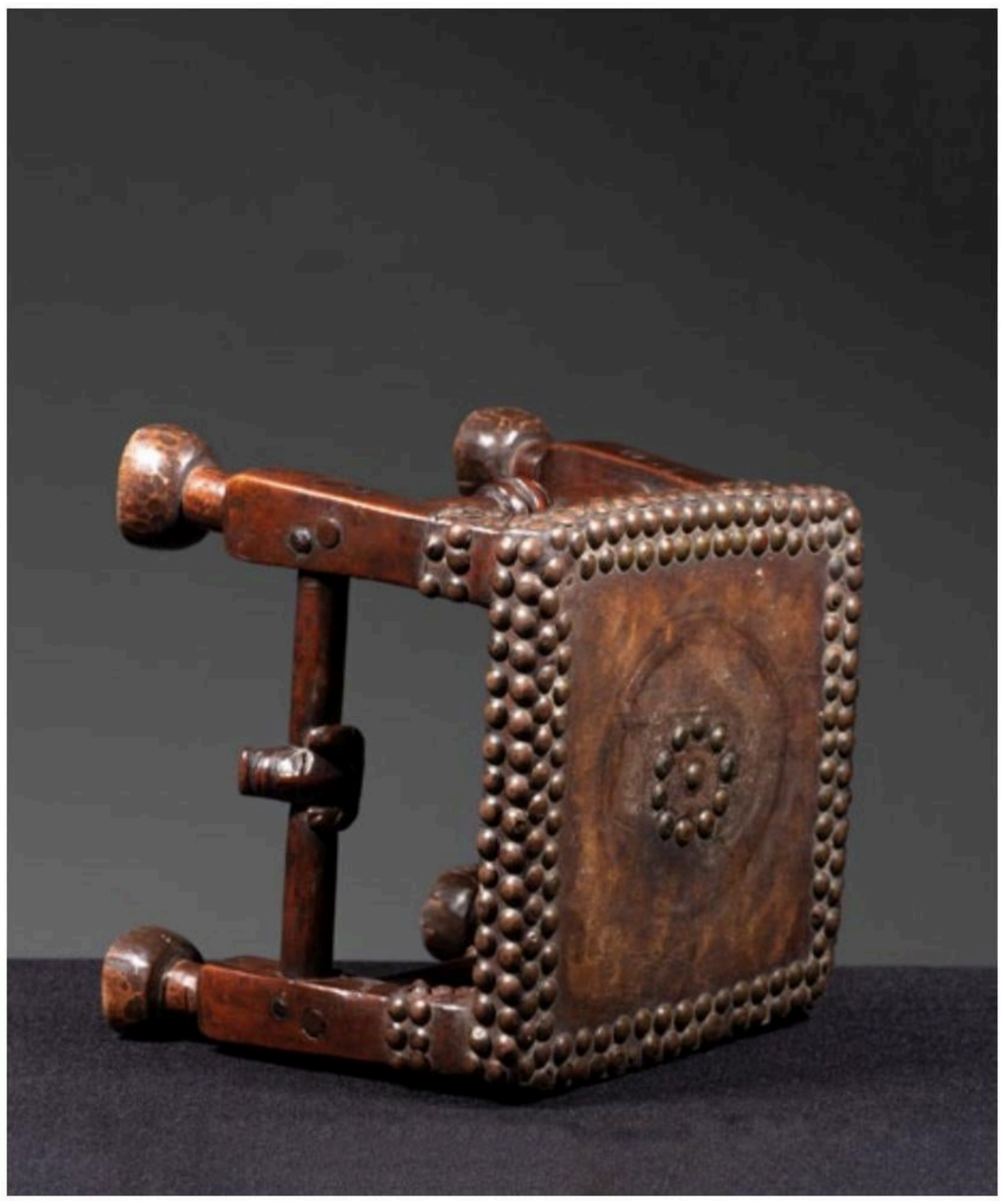
Large buffalo mask. A serrated mouth extends a very wide ridged nasal bridge. The mask is surmounted by two horns which return forward. The cheeks, concave and adorned with two eyes in relief, are hollow.

This zoomorphic helmet mask is the combination of the antelope and the crocodile. The mask appears during the goli. He intervenes during funeral ceremonies; his action must make it possible to establish a link with the supernatural forces.
The goli is a ceremony that brings out four pairs of masks: dance, first two Kple Kple young male masks, then come the Goli Glen, adult male masks; then the two Kran Pre, the young female masks, and finally the two Kpan the two adult female masks.

39

SMALL CHOKWE CHAIR

Chokwe
Angola
19th century
Height: 16,5 cm
Width: 18 cm
Provenance:
Collected in Situ 1908-1922
Price on request



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